

W5YI

Nation's Oldest Ham Radio Newsletter

REPORT

Up to the minute news from the world of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable. May be reproduced providing credit is given to The W5YI Report.

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September 15, 1992

Ham Radio Flies Again Aboard Space Shuttle

Mission Specialist *Dr. Jay Apt*, N5QWL, and Payload Specialist *Dr. Mamoru Mohri*, 7L2NJY are among the seven member crew who blasted off on schedule Saturday, September 12 at 10:23 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time (14:23 UTC) from the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral, FL.

Four time space veteran, Capt. Robert Gibson, 45, is Commander of *Endeavour* for mission STS-47. This is *Endeavour's* second trip into space, the replacement for the ill-fated *Challenger*. The mission will last 6 days, 20 hours and 36 minutes and the shuttle is due return to the Kennedy Space Center at 7:01 a.m. (EDT) on September 19th.

Blast-off went off without a hitch. It was the first time since 1985 that a shuttle has lifted off on time. NASA's fiftieth shuttle mission is devoted primarily to Japan - although there are smaller experiments from six other nations: United States, Israel, Canada, England, France and Sweden.

The crew includes the first married couple to orbit together and the first black woman in space, Mae C. Jemison, a medical doctor. There are two work shifts and the two hams (and the husband and wife) work opposite each other. N5QWL is on the "Blue" team, 7L2NJY on the "Red."

Experiments on board

STS-47, a cooperative effort between NASA and Japan's *National Space Development Agency*,

contains 43 experiments in materials processing, microgravity and life sciences - 34 of which involve Japanese research. These experiments will add to basic knowledge about the behavior of everything from crystals, fluids and even humans when exposed to the near weightless environment of spaceflight.

There are also seven so-called GAS (Get-Away Special) cans on board. To date, 78 GAS cans have flown on 18 missions. This program is offered to customers for a nominal fee on a space-available basis. GAS experiments from five countries are on this mission - including some from the Boy Scouts of America, Kansas University and the British Ashford School, Kent, England.

Astronaut Mark Lee - on his second space flight is bringing along his wife, first time space traveler, Jan Davis. And no, even though the life science experiments include human physiology and behavior, they won't be having sex in space together. Both are mechanical engineers. Mark has a master's degree from MIT, Jan a Ph.D from the University of Alabama.

Aboard the primary payload, the "Spacelab-J" module, are all sorts of fish, frogs, hornets and flies. Among the experiments Mohri is conducting are studies on space-motion sickness in humans by observing Japanese koi (carp fish) with electrodes attached to their brain and by monitoring flies, the genetic effects of space radiation.

Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment

As a general rule, whenever ham astronauts are aboard a shuttle flight, they participate in a continuing educational project called the Shuttle Amateur Radio EXperiment. STS-47 is the seventh U.S. space shuttle mission to carry SAREX as a secondary payload. SAREX has helped thousands of children learn about the space program.

The Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment was developed jointly by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation (AMSAT) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and is sanctioned by the Federal Communications Commission, (FCC.)

On hand for the launch were be hundreds of Japanese, including Toyohiro Akiyama, the first Japanese and journalist in space. He spent eight days aboard Russia's Mir space station in December 1990. Tokyo Broadcasting System paid \$12 million for his rocket fare. NASA officials said there was no scheduled provision for a STS-47 ham astronaut to Mir ham cosmonaut QSO.

"We may attempt the contact once we learn of any windows of opportunity where the two spacecraft will be within radio view of each other. In that case we will notify the state department and make the necessary arrangements to pass the word to the control center in Russia and up to Mir. If the contact takes place, it will be on 145.55 MHz simplex."

Both ham astronauts got their Ph.D's in the same year, 1976. Dr. Mamoru Mohri, 7L2NJY received his doctorate in Chemistry from Flinders University of South Australia. NASA has planned several four to eight minute "windows" for the crew to talk with students and Flinders University is one of them. Other Australian schools lined up are Wesley College in South Perth, Queensland Institute of Technology in Brisbane and the Australian Maritime College.

In the United States, McKinley School in Honolulu, Hawaii, Randolph School in Huntsville, Alabama, Cary High School in Cary, N.C. and Del Mar Middle School in Santa Cruz, California are scheduled to communicate with the astronauts on the two-meter ham band.

Dr. Jay Apt, N5QWL has a doctorate in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. It is Jay's second trip into space. In April 1991, N5QWL performed a space walk as part of STS-37, the first in over five years. Apt was one of five licensed ham operators aboard the Space Shuttle Atlantis. During that flight, Apt talked to students around the world and made history by receiving the first fast-scan amateur television images from earth.

Jay Apt becomes the first Technician class licen-

see permitted to operate from space without a waiver of the Extra Class license requirement. The FCC revised the rules in July to permit any amateur radio licensee to operate a space station subject to the privileges of the operator's class of license. For ham radio purposes, a space station is defined as an amateur station located more than 50 kilometers (about 30 miles) above the Earth's surface. STS-47 will fly at an altitude of 300 kilometers with radio coverage from 70 degrees north latitude to 70 degrees south.

The Shuttle Endeavour will carry both a 2-meter voice hand-held (Motorola) radio and packet radio gear. Besides the planned school contacts, both amateurs plan general QSO's as they fly over land masses. NASA said that "N5QWL will be asleep over most of the USA passes and 7L2NJY will be busy with laboratory duties for most United States passes, so try packet over the USA". The operators will try to work voice when not otherwise engaged and at night or when the ground is cloudy.

Before departing, Jay Apt said to "... pass the word especially to our friends in the Eastern hemisphere, since that's when I'll be awake and doing most of the voice QSO's. Packet should be strong over the U.S. As a reminder, we will operate split." In other words, do not transmit on the shuttle's downlink frequency since the astronauts will not listen on 145.55 MHz.

The standard 1200 baud packet station (call sign W5RRR-1) will downlink on 145.55 MHz with an 144.70 uplink. Be sure to copy your QSO number if the packet station is operating in the automatic robot mode. The astronauts will use their own call signs (N5QWL and 7L2NJY) on FM voice working split frequency. They will transmit on 145.55 MHz and listen on 144.95 primary with 144.91 and 144.97 MHz secondary. Over Europe, the uplink shifts down to 144.80, 144.75 and 144.70 MHz to prevent interference to their weak signal and beacon operation band plan.

ARRL suggests that amateurs might want to decrease their radio's deviation to 3 kHz to compensate for doppler shift. Most transceivers are initially set to 5 kHz. Otherwise wait until 60 to 90 seconds after the shuttle comes over your horizon to transmit. If a station transmits without following these suggestions, the shuttle operators hear what sounds like a noisy carrier. This applies to both voice and packet.

QSL confirmations should go to N5QWL's callbook address: 806 Shorewood Drive, Seabrook, Texas 77586 USA, with the usual self-addressed-stamped envelope or equivalent. Include the call sign worked, date, UTC, mode and frequency. For packet contacts, be sure to include the QSO number issued by the robot.

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Following the flight of STS-47

NASA's Dale Martin, KG5U advised us that the NASA Info BBS (bulletin board service) at Johnson Space Center will not be operational during this mission to carry Keplerian elements and SAREX bulletins. Ordinarily amateurs can access the BBS by calling 713/483-2500 and typing in password: "62511". (1200 baud, 8-N-1.) Plans are to have this BBS back up shortly. There will certainly be no shortage of SAREX information sources, however.

WA3NAN, the Goddard Amateur Radio Club (Greenbelt, Maryland) will carry SAREX news, Keplerian elements (space craft parameters) and shuttle re-transmissions at 3860, 7185, 14295, 21395 and 28650 kHz on the HF ham bands.

W5RRR, the Johnson Space Center Amateur Radio Club (Houston, Texas) will air SAREX bulletins at 3850, 7227, 14280, 21350 and 28400 kHz. SAREX news can also be found on W1AW, the ARRL headquarters station, and the CompuServe, Genie and Prodigy public computer information services. (ARRL's N1MZA, WA1STO and NASA's KG5U contributed to this story.)

FCC PROPOSES TO PRIVATIZE ADMINISTRATION OF COMMERCIAL RADIO OPERATOR LICENSE EXAMS

On August 21, the FCC issued a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* which looks toward privatizing the examination of applicants for commercial radio licenses. It has also proposed clarifying Part 13 rules regarding who may sign certifying statements.

Because of budgetary constraints, the FCC said that it can presently offer commercial radio operator licenses only twice a year at 25 local offices. Because major population areas do not have FCC offices, many applicants must travel great distances to sit for commercial radio operator examinations, at great expense to those applicants.

Moreover, the Commission noted that a review of the licensing process has revealed that many applicants for commercial radio operator licenses have not been required by the Commission to have a license for the work they intended to perform. Available information has also indicated that many employers impose a license requirement as a condition of employment because to them, it is an indicator of job competency.

Currently, the FCC has seven types of commercial radio licenses and two types of endorsements. A new class of license, the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System Radio Operator's License (GMDSS), has recently been created, and is expected to be issued beginning in September 1992. The GMDSS exams are

expected to add resource burdens to the Commission's license issuance process.

In May 1990, the Commission began charging a fee for processing almost all commercial radio operator license applications. The \$35.00 fee was established by Congress. Although the fee amount was set at the minimum necessary to reflect current Commission costs for administering the examinations, the establishment of the fee does not permit the Commission to increase the frequency of examinations or their site availability.

The Commission has also proposed limiting the category of officials signing a certification statement for the purposes of granting an endorsement under Section 13.12(b) of the Rules. This change as well as other minor changes such as those addressing license posting requirements, are primarily administrative processing clarifications.

(Source: FCC News Release, August 31, 1992)

AMATEUR AMBASSADOR AWARD GOES TO WX9W

As communications coordinator for Dream Flight Wassau, **Fred Prehn, WX9W**, was instrumental in providing hundreds of students with a positive introduction to amateur radio. Because of Mr. Prehn's efforts, AEA (Advanced Electronic Applications, Inc.) presented him with the 1992 Amateur Ambassador Award at the August ARRL National convention in Los Angeles.

The Amateur Ambassador Award is presented each year to the person who best meets the following three criteria: Dedication to Amateur Radio, Positive Influence on Those Outside the Amateur Service, and Initiation of Special Projects or Programs to Promote Amateur Radio. The award includes a check for \$1,000 and a trip to the ARRL National Convention. If you know of a ham who meets these criteria, contact AEA for more information.

Dream Flight Wausau was an educational project centered around a simulated space shuttle mission. Approximately 750 students from all around the Wausau, Wisconsin school district participated in the project, and amateur radio was used extensively. Packet and Amateur Television (ATV) were integral in keeping everyone involved. ATV also linked to a local cable TV station, and in the 6-day event was broadcast over the Central, Wisconsin area. An estimated 20,000 viewers watched the Dream Flight and had a very positive exposure to amateur radio.

Further information on AEA's Annual **Amateur Ambassador Award** may be obtained by writing Ryan Hansen, Advanced Electronic Applications, Inc., P.O. Box C2160, 2006 - 196th Street SW, Lynnwood, Washington 98036. (Telephone: 206/774-3708)

AMATEUR RADIO CALL SIGNS

...issued as of the first of September 1992:

Radio District	Gp. "A" Extra	Gp. "B" Advan.	Gp. "C" Tech/Gen	Gp. "D" Novice
0 (*)	AA0JZ	KF0AN	N0UAK	KB0KRB
1 (*)	AA1DW	KD1KG	N1NKE	KB1AJI
2 (*)	AA2KW	KF2KH	N2SIT	KB2PKB
3 (*)	AA3BY	KE3EP	N3NHH	KB3ARZ
4 (*)	AC4UW	KQ4FC	(***)	KD4SNJ
5 (*)	AB5HU	KJ5EI	(***)	KB5VAR
6 (*)	AB6OB	KN6AA	(***)	KD6NDD
7 (*)	AA7RE	KI7GK	(***)	KB7PVX
8 (*)	AA8IO	KF8WZ	N8VNZ	KB8OCQ
9 (*)	AA9EZ	KF9LJ	N9QXR	KB9IDJ
N. Mariana Is.	AH0P	AH0AK	KH0AW	WH0AAT
Guam	NH2E	AH2CP	KH2GK	WH2ANA
Johnston Is.	AH3D	AH3AD	KH3AG	WH3AAG
Midway Is.		AH4AA	KH4AG	WH4AAH
Hawaii	(**)	AH6MC	WH6IV	WH6CPX
Kure Is.			KH7AA	
Amer. Samoa	AH8E	AH8AE	KH8AI	WH8ABA
Wake W. Peale	AH9C	AH9AD	KH9AE	WH9AAI
Alaska	(**)	AL7OK	WL7GC	WL7CGD
Virgin Is.	NP2U	KP2CA	NP2FY	WP2AHS
Puerto Rico	(**)	KP4UG	(***)	WP4LKR

CALL SIGN WATCH: *=All 2-by-1 "W" prefixed call signs have been assigned in all radio districts.

Group "A" 2-by-2 format call signs from the AA-AK block are next assigned to Extra Class amateurs when all 2-by-1's are allocated.

**=All Group A (2-by-1) format call signs have been assigned in Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico. Group "B" (2-by-2) format call signs are assigned to Extra Class when Group "A" are depleted.

***=Group "C" (1-by-3) call signs have now run out in the 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and Puerto Rico call districts. (It won't be long before they are joined by the "0" and "8" call sign areas.) According to the rules (adopted by the Commission February 8, 1978, Docket No. 21135), Technician and General class amateurs are next assigned Group "D" (2-by-3 format) call signs when all Group "C" have been assigned.

Upgrading Novices holding a 2-by-3 format call sign in the 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and Puerto Rico call areas will no longer be able to request a Group "C" call and will be automatically assigned another more recent 2-by-3 format call sign if they do! The FCC will not be going back and reassigning unused "K" and "W" 1-by-3 format call signs.

[Source: FCC, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania]

JULY VE PROGRAM STATISTICS

July No. VEC's	1990 *18	1991 *18	1992 *18
Testing Sessions	500	711	847
VEC	1989	1990	1991
ARRL	29.0%	37.7%	48.9%
W5YI	43.4	44.0	39.8
CAVEC	6.4	5.3	2.6
SunnyV			1.7
DeVRY	5.4	3.9	-0-
Others (13)	15.8	9.1	7.0
Year-to-Date Sessions	3546	4427	5957
Elements Administ.	7617	13754	13533
VEC	1990	1991	1992
ARRL	40.7%	43.8%	52.3%
W5YI	35.2	36.7	32.8
CAVEC	8.7	6.0	3.2
SunnyV			2.4
DeVRY	4.0	3.3	-0-
Others (13)	11.4	10.2	9.3
Year-to-Date Elements	63898	97599	122043
Applicants Tested	4713	8392	8351
VEC	1990	1991	1992
ARRL	40.8%	44.5%	52.2%
W5YI	35.2	36.8	33.2
CAVEC	7.2	4.9	3.1
SunnyV			2.2
DeVRY	4.6	3.5	-0-
Others (13)	12.1	10.3	9.3
Year-to-Date Tested	38947	58671	73034
July	1990	1991	1992
Pass Rate - All	60.9%	66.6%	65.2%
Applicants/Session	9.4	11.8	9.9
Elements/Applicant	1.6	1.6	1.6
Sessions Per VEC	27.8	39.5	47.1

Administrative Errors by VE's/VEC's

July	1990	1991	1992
Defect. Applications	0.6%	0.5%	0.3%
Late Filed Sessions	1.6%	1.8%	1.7%
Defective Reports	0.2%	0.8%	0.0%

Note: There were slightly less exam applicants and test elements administered in July 1992 than during the comparable month a year ago. It should be noted, however, that there was an 80.5% increase in the elements administered (and 78.1% more examinees) in July 1991 vs. July 1990. Essentially the amateur service is meeting the "big figures" from a year ago.

[Source: Personal Radio Branch/FCC; Washington, D.C.]

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● Members of the Canadian Radio Relay League, Inc, and the Canadian Amateur Radio Federation have voted to dissolve their groups and merge into a single *Radio Amateurs of Canada* (RAC) national organization. In keeping with Canadian custom they will also have a French name: *Radio Amateur du Canada*. The result of the nation wide vote tabulated on August 24th showed 97% of CRRL members were in favor of the merger and CARF Members: 92% in favor.

The results were handed over to CARF and CRRL by the Canadian Corps of Commissioners who monitored the secret ballot vote. This gives CRRL and CARF the official "go ahead" to proceed with final legal and financial actions to dissolve their respective societies and to incorporate RAC. Once incorporated, RAC's Interim Executive Officers and Directors will be installed per the agreement between CARF and CRRL. Farrell Hopwood, VE7RD becomes the interim president. There will be six additional officers and seven Regional Directors.

● President Bush has signed into law new legislation banning so-called indecencies from most broadcast stations between 6 a.m. and midnight. Public broadcasting stations that sign off before midnight can broadcast indecencies after 10 p.m. The new law directs the FCC to put the indecency prohibitions into effect within six months.

It is extremely doubtful, however, if the new law will stand up. Similar regulations have been thrown out by the courts who conclude indecent speech is protected by the Constitution.

Meanwhile, the FCC has stepped up its indecency enforcement during the past few months by launching inquiries and fines

against broadcast programming. Since Sikes took office, the FCC has fined 14 broadcast stations in amounts ranging from \$2,000 to \$20,000. Two stations have yet to pay and one (WLUP-AM Chicago) has refused payment forcing a courtroom showdown. On July 25th, the FCC issued a tentative \$25,000 fine against KMEL-FM of San Francisco.

Broadcasting magazine hinted that the recent crackdown may be politically motivated. "...should Pres. Bush or V.P. Quayle want to talk about the administration's anti-indecency efforts, they can readily point to the work of the FCC as proof of their hard line."

● Do you remember that we told you in our August 15th issue to watch for IBM to launch an offensive against clone PC makers? Well it has started ...and it is only the tip of the iceberg!

On September 10th, IBM drastically lowered prices and expanded their PS/1 line. You can now buy regular 386/25 MHz machines with VGA color and 85MB hard drives in the \$1,000 range - and with all sorts of basic software already installed at no charge. A fully loaded 386/20 MHz/80MB VGA version is being street-priced at \$899 to combat the lowest priced Compaq.

But this is from big blue's regular marketing department, not the "new" IBM Personal Computer Company, an offshoot actually very loosely connected with corporate IBM. In effect, IBM will now compete with itself as well as others!

Our sources tell us, however, that only opening salvo has been fired! There are two more marketing campaigns in the wings. One is a really hardball battle involving Microsoft's Windows and IBM's OS/2 operating system.

The big gun, however, is still (supposedly) under wraps. IBM will counter the success of Com-

paq's new promotional line (trade name: ProLinea) with a new IBM value line that we are told will be called "ValuPoint."

But nothing of the magnitude of an IBM campaign can be accomplished in a vacuum and the competition is waiting for the IBM announcement which is expected within a month.

IBM PC marketing will become two faced! Corporate customers will be told the new ValuPoint is low-end "non-commercial" quality, in other words, not high-performance caliber. But look for ValuLine's IBM heritage to be stressed to the public. The idea is to retain corporate customers (which IBM controls due to their higher end customer base) while at the same time recapturing home computer consumer sales which goes increasingly to the copycats.

Five years ago, two-thirds of all PCs sold in the U.S. were manufactured by the top ten PC makers. Their market share is now down drastically and they want it back. PCs have become an appliance commodity and you can expect them to be sold as such. The traditional corner computer specialty store will feel the pinch!

After the IBM ValuPoint rollout, all hell breaks loose! Macintosh will join the fray with a new low cost performance line to be called "Performa." And Toshiba has their "Satellite" waiting in the wings. The upcoming Comdex computer show in November should be interesting!

The clone makers aren't sitting still! They will offer still lower-priced machines as soon as the majors introduce their clone killers. Such is the free enterprise game of competing in the marketplace.

Look for Dell's new "Dimension" line to cancel some of the strides expected to be made by the big names! The big winner, of course, will be the public and prices should be really low by Christmas!

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• The FCC has issued a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* on their plans for *personal communications services* otherwise known as PCS.

The 97-page document suggested four options for specifying PCS service districts. The first alternative would divide the United States into 487 areas. This would allow the greatest amount of participation by firms with limited resources but offer the least economies of scale and scope.

The second choice would break up the U.S. into 49 geographic areas, including Puerto Rico and Alaska. This would provide greater scale economies than the first option but would limit the number of participating companies.

Option three would be to divide the country into 194 regions to roughly coincide with telephone area codes. This would not only allow a large number of firms to participate but could possibly "facilitate efficient integration of PCS into the local telephone infrastructure," the FCC said.

The last option is to award nationwide licenses. This would maximize scale and scope, but allow the smallest number of firms to participate, the agency said.

An option not included among the FCC's proposals is to split the country into 734 market areas, a method currently used for cellular telephone and the brand new IDVS (Interactive Video and Data Service.) Commissioner Quello asked the public to comment on this alternative.

The FCC said it hopes to award at least three PCS licenses per service area to ensure a competitive market either through a lottery or a competitive bidding process. The Commission also proposed 10-year term license.

Wireless personal communications services will be big business in the United States! The Arthur D. Little research firm predicts PCS

will generate \$35 to \$40 billion in revenue in the U.S. by the year 2010. "Within 10 years of PCS availability, demand will approach 50 to 60 million new users in North America." The study said the key to PCS success is being able to obtain government franchises, spectrum, levels of investment and to develop effective marketing strategies.

• So far, *TV Answer, Inc.*, is *receiving a cool reception* from cable operators. TV answer is the two-way interactive wireless video system that permits viewers to talk back to the television sets. The major market application deadline is fast approaching -- and in some cases has come and gone. There appears to be little interest in the technology. TV Answer offers a return 218-MHz signal path for home shopping, banking, polling and play-along programming. Cable operators are objecting to the \$700 price tag per customer for the hardware. Most say cable will eventually develop their own system.

• Hearing *"This is only a test"* broadcast by your local radio station may become a thing of the past. The FCC has announced a "comprehensive attic-to-basement" plan to *overhaul the Emergency Broadcast System (EBS)*. EBS has not been updated since 1976. Its name may be changed to the *Emergency Warning System (EWS)*.

Proposed is a new form of silent testing and a cutback (from weekly to monthly) in the amount of on-air testing. Actually new equipment will be able to test itself.

The FCC is suggesting a new "subaudible" warning system that will preclude use the familiar 20-second tone that mixes 853 Hz and 960 Hz together in order to activate emergency listening devices.

Cable operators, who currently do not have to perform EBS tests, will be required to join TV and radio broadcasters.

In 1991, EBS was used more than 1,500 times. The Emergency Broadcast System was activated nearly a day before Hurricane Andrew hit the south Florida coast.

EBS was established in 1951 as the CONELRAD (Control of Electromagnetic Radiation) system during the Truman administration to provide the president with the means of addressing the American people in the event of a nuclear attack. The service has yet to be used during a national emergency.

The Truman administration envisioned that the president or a government agency would activate the tone to control a master radio or television station, one specifically constructed to withstand an atomic explosion. The station's command tone would be heard by other stations, linked in a pyramid; those stations would be heard by other stations, and so on.

Currently, EBS is only used at the local level to notify the public of dangerous conditions; toxic leaks, tornados, hurricanes, chemical fires, earthquakes, floods and such. The EBS was even used during the L.A. riots to call off-duty police officers back to work.

• *"Companies Bet Big on a Radio Computer Boom"*, is an article in the August 17th *Newsweek* that tells of the anticipated growth in the transmission of wireless (radio) data using a computer. They mention "...a different system that breaks up data into 'packets' the computer sends with instructions about how to reassemble the pieces." This story might seem futuristic to the public, but hams have using packet radio for years! The story adds, "Before radio is ready for prime time, the gadgets will have to get a lot friendlier."

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HOBBYIST TAPES TORRID ROYAL TELEPHONE CALLS

American newspapers have been reporting about how a very intimate and amorous personal phone call between England's Princess Diana and a male friend had attracted more than 100,000 callers to a posted "900" type telephone message set up by the London tabloid newspaper, *The Sun*. The 23 minute tape - which added up to \$22.00 to every caller's phone bill - was eventually banned from the British national phone network by Britain's *Independent Committee for the Supervision of Telephone Information Services* as an invasion of privacy.

The Sun was outraged and reluctantly discontinued the toll charge on the "Princess Diana Love Line" but not before it had generated hundreds of thousands of dollars in revenue. *The Sun* newspaper has since switched the tape to a toll-free line that is not subject to government regulation.

The tabloid said it had planned to turn over \$100,000 of "hotline" profits over to the *National Society to the Prevention of Cruelty to Children*. The redfaced charity, whose patrons include Queen Elizabeth II and whose president is Princess Margaret, have had a change of heart. They are now refusing to accept the proceeds from the love tape. The entire episode is a major (and rather amusing) scandal in the United Kingdom. The question is:

Who Furnished The Tape of the Phone Call?

According to the August 26th *London Times* it was provided by a British radio amateur, Cyril Reenan, who lives in Abingdon, Oxfordshire. We couldn't find a Cyril Reenan listed in the International Radio Amateur Callbook so we decided to simply phone him. We got Reenan's phone number from the international operator and dialed him. He answered the telephone.

Cyril told us that he was indeed a radio amateur, but not licensed as a two-way ham operator. He did say he operated two way on the radio for a while, however, using the call sign "Cavalier." We assume this must have been on a service similar to our Citizen's Band. He said he discontinued transmitting because the language on the airwaves was so bad. Cyril said he now only listens to the radio airwaves.

Reenan, a retired bank manager, acknowledged that he did indeed intercept the phone call between Princess Diana and a man called James Listening but that the mobile radio phone call actually took place more than two-and-a-half years ago on January 4, 1990, and was not a recent phone call. And he also said that the 23 minute tape was really two tapes spliced together to make one conversation. He only

provided about half the recorded message. The rest of the tape was from a phone call intercepted by a lady on New Years Day 1989.

Cyril said he agreed to sell his tape to *The Sun* tabloid for 1,000 pounds - about \$2,000 - and was later paid another 5,000 pounds for a total of about \$12,000. He doesn't know how much the "lady" received but believes she also had a contract with *The Sun*. According to Cyril, he was to be paid 50,000 pounds if the telephone conversation was used - about \$100,000.

Cyril said part of the agreement was that the tabloid would not to release his name since monitoring of private telephone calls is illegal in the United Kingdom. *The Sun*, however, but went back on their word and released his name to the *London Times* and he is very annoyed with *The Sun* tabloid.

Intercepting private telephone calls

Listening to other people's telephone conversations is a crime in Britain under the 1949 *Wireless Telegraphy Act* and 1985 *Interception of Communications Act* and punishable by up to two years in jail and a fine of up to 2,000 pounds. Cyril said that he doubted that Scotland Yard would become involved because Buckingham Palace has refused to say anything official about the intercepted phone call or press charges.

The Press Complaints Commission said there seemed to be a very low level of public outrage over the intrusion into royal privacy. It is unlikely that they will take any action because no one has complained about the phone call. They did say, however, that the Commission received 51 written complaints about last month's publication of semi-naked photographs of the Duchess of York frolicking with her financial advisor while on vacation.

Cyril said he didn't remember the frequency where he picked up Princess Diana's phone conversation since it came upon the conversation by accident while he was playing with his ICOM R-2000 receiver.

According to Reenan, *The Sun* was still getting revenue from his audio tape although not in excess of regular circuit charges "...because they own the phone line."

Cyril said the amount of revenue collected by *The Sun* is actually 350,000 pounds - about \$700,000. He said the tabloid is also getting ready to syndicate the tape to other countries. He mentioned Switzerland as being one of them. Reenan doubts that he would ever receive his promised 50,000 pounds.

U.S. Listeners also scan radio airwaves!

On August 17, 1992, the *Washington Post* newspaper published a feature article about U.S. eavesdropping on private calls. They tell about a (not so) private phone call between Vice President Quayle and Senator Danforth (R-MO) on the first day of the Soviet Coup against Mikhail Gorbachev. It was picked up as he passed over Amarillo, Texas, by "an eavesdropper using electronic scanning gear that searches the airwaves for radio or wireless telephone conversations." Quayle, airborne at the time, "...observed that Gorbachev was all but irrelevant and Boris Yeltsin had become the man to watch.

And President Bush "...was accidentally overheard by a newspaper reporter in 1990 while talking about the buildup prior to the Persian Gulf War with Senator Robert Byrd (D-W.Va.) Another "...snoop overheard a March 1990 call placed by Peter Lynch, a well-known mutual fund executive in Boston, discussing his forthcoming resignation, an event that later startled financial circles."

"Specific frequencies, such as those used by the president's plane are publicly available and are often listed in scanner publications and computer bulletin boards."

"The *Electronic Communications Privacy Act* prohibits intentional monitoring, taping or distribution of the content of most electronic, wire of private oral communications. Cellular phone calls are explicitly protected under this Act." It is legal, however, to intercept cordless phone calls and those going out over ham radio, however, since the users have no expectation of privacy.

"To help curb eavesdropping," the *Washington Post* said, "the House has passed a measure sponsored by Rep. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) chairman of the *House Telecommunications and Finance Subcommittee*, that would require the FCC to outlaw any scanner that could receive cellular frequencies. The bill has been sent to the Senate."

Scanner hobbyists justify their activity by arguing that radio communications are available everywhere. "I'm not going out and stealing these signals. They're coming into my home, right through my windows."

LEAGUE "SPIN DOCTORS" WORK OVERTIME ON DXCC-GATE

Extraordinary damage control, perhaps at an unprecedented level, immediately followed the publication of the DXCC-backlog story in the August 1st issue of the W5Yi Report. Despite the spin put on the controversy by League officials, well-placed sources insist that the entire program has been compromised, perhaps permanently.

ARRL Executive Vice President Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, authored a "politically correct" response as printed in the August 10th installment QRZ-DX and reprinted here in our August 15th issue. To buttress the League's position, an interview with DXCC Manager Tom Hogerty, KC1J and DXCC Specialist Bill Kenamer, K5FUV (that strangely didn't mention the W5Yi Report by name but instead referred to the circulation of "rumors and misconceptions") appeared in the August 10th ARRL Letter. Let's highlight some of the major points in these companion editorial responses.

FINANCES: Sumner's letter starts off with a straw man (possibly prompted by the QRZ-DX query). Although we never suggested that DXCC was forcing ARRL into bankruptcy, Sumner argues nonetheless that DXCC is not "bankrupting" the League and points to the League's glowing financial statement in May QST as evidence.

However, what Sumner doesn't mention is that the League's rosy cash-flow is a direct result of the fabulous success (to the credit of the HQ staff) of the League's new beginner's book *"Now You're Talking."* Absent the income stream provided by this Codeless-Tech driven publication, the balance sheet would be entirely different. Nor does the League's financial statement disclose the huge costs of the so-called "temporary" deployment of personnel resources to address the backlog as we discussed previously.

The important thing is that a huge if not disproportionate amount of money is being spent -- likely disguised under other line-item accounts in addition to DXCC. With all the vital objectives of the League's priority list, is this an appropriate allocation of resources? [Another parallel to national politics: Many astute political observers have noted that the Social Security trust-fund surplus is being looted by the federal government in order to make the deficit less bleak than it actual is.]

Is it fair that the majority of the League membership -- who are not DXers -- should have their dues continue to subsidize out-of-control special-interest DXCC entitlements, with or without creative book-keeping? And while Sumner says quite rightly that "...the League's mission can't be suspended while we work exclusively on DXCC," visitors to HQ at various times in 1991/92 would be hard pressed to conclude otherwise. Indeed, Sumner does not dispute the fact that numerous non-DXCC HQ staffers were pulled off their normal functions to work extensively on DXCC.

In a comment that smacks of political cronyism, Sumner says that the Board of Directors never denied a staff request for DXCC resources. But that's not the whole story. As discussed previously, what actually happened insofar as the 1988 DXCC expansion was

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concerned is as follows:

(a) Board approval of the entire bloated DX Advisory Committee expansion report:

(b) Board reluctance or inability to come to grips with long-term funding requirements:

(c) Backlog!

(d) Big rush to solve the problem, i.e. spend money and more money and blame selected staffers.

At this point, the League's decision-makers continue to have no choice but to increase funding for the program every time pressure is brought to bear by DXers in the traditional manner of greedy welfare queens and a related self-perpetuating bureaucracy.

Sumner admits that DXCC is claiming more short-term resources "...than we would be comfortable committing for the long haul." The difficulty is that no one has a clue when the short-term ends and the long-term begins. Remember, most of the Congressionally created welfare-entitlement programs also started out as "temporary." So Sumner's letter does not address the fundamentally critical issue -- that is, whether or not resources allocated to DXCC are grossly disproportionate to its participants vis-a-vis the League membership as a whole.

Sumner also adds that DXCC "...merits continued support." Of course it does! We never advocated non-support (my own DXCC totals speak to that). The question is - support to what degree and to what end?

SINGLE-BAND AWARDS: We must respectfully disagree with K1ZZ in his downplaying of the impact of single-band awards. Virtually all objective DXCC observers admit that the single-band awards helped trigger the current backlog and associated expenses. Indeed (even before critical mass occurred) DXCC staff was expanded immediately by one full-time person entirely for processing single-band awards. Likewise, the KC1J statement that "...the new awards have not been that much of a burden" is preposterous. All the turmoil swirling about DXCC can be traced back to the implementation of the new awards. That's when the regrettable blame-game got its start.

Nor did the single-band awards bring computerization into focus -- DXCC computerization had been contemplated as far back as the early 1980s under the administration of then General Manager Dick Baldwin, W1RU. Single-band awards did not precipitate computerization although it did make the need more obvious to be sure as correctly pointed out in the Sumner letter.

In referring to all the money and manpower thrown at DXCC, particularly in terms of computer backfilling (i.e., the entering of a DXCC member's complete record to date on the HQ mainframe computer upon the

member's submission of an endorsement application) as a "...one-time extra effort," KC1J misleadingly minimizes the devastating effects the DXCC backlog has had on both budget and human beings.

In fairness, Sumner makes a powerful argument that computerization eliminates the need for resubmitting the same QSL card multiple times for awards credit and that a uniform start date may eliminate the labor-intensive checking of separate QSO dates (although some countries, such as "Germany," are date-sensitive and would require checking anyway.) However, let's not forget that DXCC is supposed to stimulate on-the-air activity rather than QSL foraging in musty basements.

Sumner also suggests that the slavish devotion to the 1945 start date for all DXCCs reduces the burden on DX stations, QSL managers, and QSL bureaus. In reality, the only way that the burden could have been lessened would be for the entire worldwide DX community to have been equipped with fully functioning crystal balls to anticipate the creation of single-band DXCCs and therefore to QSL 100% for each and every DX QSO made since 1945!

PAPER RECORDS: HQ officials insist on engaging in historical revisionism about the manual master records. K1ZZ refers to problems "...hidden in old filing cabinets" and K5FUV echos that. But K5FUV agrees with the W5Yi Report that the paper records are accurate (he says they are "...surprisingly accurate" but there really is no surprise when you consider the great care that had been lavished on those records over the years).

Although our research indicates the DXCC backlog is not being significantly exacerbated by the original records, we never said the paper records were "perfect." So there was no need for K5FUV to refer to that as a "myth." Another straw man. To focus entirely on the paper records is ludicrous. Ask the DXCC members. They know their country count and so does the master paper record. On a more subtle level, K5FUV's simplistic comment that the manual records are difficult to interpret because "...they use country names that are different from those used today" speaks volumes about the expertise of the current DXCC administration. After all, you don't have to be a rocket scientist to know, for example, that Upper Volta is now Burkina Faso.

DATA ENTRY: The League's official position notwithstanding, insiders say the keypunching is creating, not turning up, discrepancies in DXCC records. K5FUV suggests that the glitches introduced by non-ham keypunchers is a "red herring." A red herring is

normally defined as a way to divert attention from something else. It appears to be HQ staff who are in the red herring mode, i.e., trying to divert attention from the nightmarish problems associated with the transfer of accurate information from the paper record to computer.

What's even more unsettling is that the DXCC desk "edit level" is not by any means catching all the errors (as correspondence to the W5Yi Report indicates) despite the KC1J/K5FUV commentary. As a matter of fact, sources report that edit-level personnel regularly send out computer printouts with full knowledge that the records are screwed up: the prevailing philosophy seems to be "let the member do all the work and find our errors." This is a far cry from K1ZZ's innocuous comment about striving for 100% accuracy and that staff does not mind being told about "an error" by the participant.

What comes across loud and clear is the League's propaganda is a very cavalier attitude towards record accuracy among the current DXCC staff. DXCC is serious business to DXers, and they demand 100% accuracy in their country totals -- this is the essence of the program. We quoted a letter-writer in our August 15th issue who said the prior DXCC administration was rude and arrogant; however, despite such public-relations weaknesses, their dedication to quality control was never in question. Honor Rollers will vouch for that.

While it may be true as the ARRL Letter suggests that most of the full-time DXCC staff hold amateur licenses, many of these are ceremonial or synthetic hams who obtained a Novice ticket after joining the staff merely for appearance sake or career advancement. To transform these folks into experienced DXers is as unfair to them as it is the ARRL/DXCC members. Though these staffers should be highly commended for taking the effort to become licensed radio amateurs, it's unlikely you'll ever hear them in the pileups!

KC1J also says that the "do your own" data entry program was terminated because it was not time efficient or cost effective. Why? He states a conclusion without any reasoning behind it. What's the real reason here?

K5FUV follows up by saying the instructions were not being properly followed by the members. That unfortunately also seems like more blame-shifting. Particularly with the widespread availability of computer logging software. DXers are generally competent database managers and highly competitive and accurate in keeping their own country totals. In other words, active hams know their countries. But what of the directions provided by HQ? It was incumbent on HQ staff to produce an absolutely user-friendly set of instructions. If DXers in the field were not following instructions as alleged by K5FUV, the problem may have

been defects in those HQ-created instructions rather than the DXers themselves.

K1ZZ's letter looks to the future for DXCC members being able to submit their applications in electronic form to reduce HQ keyboarding. However, this procedure was already in place and then came to a screeching halt. Again, what's the real story here?

We did suggest one possible solution: Downsizing. There may be other reasonable solutions following a rational, business-like, cost vs. benefit analysis. But in order to implement needed DXCC reforms, it's clear from our research that four elements are absolutely necessary:

- (1.) Decision-makers must be sufficiently CLOSE to the situation;
- (2.) Decision-makers and staff implementing those decisions must CARE about the integrity of the program;
- (3.) Management and staff must KNOW what needs to be done, and;
- (4.) Those entrusted with the implementation must have the CLOUT and COURAGE to make it happen.

To straighten out this expensive mess, all four of the above criteria must be met. At present, no one -- either at the Board or HQ level -- appears to satisfy all four. Only the symptoms are currently being treated, not the actual disease. And the cover-up continues.

STAFF PERFORMANCE: Neither of the two official ARRL responses address or refute in any way the ultimate victimization inherent in the DXCC backlog blame-game. That is the discharge of two long-term HQ career employees, John Lindholm, W1XX and Don Search, W3AZD. Nor is there any explanation as to why the backlog persists despite these severe measures. The quick fix turned out to be not quick and not even a fix.

Ironically enough, it was Lindholm and Search who were officially commended by the Board for their hard, diligent and dedicated work on the expanded DXCC program at the July 1988 Board of Director meeting. See Minute 36, September 1988 QST, page 62.

Sources indicate that HQ's chief financial officer Barry Shelly (non-ham) was primarily responsible for punching Lindholm's and Search's ticket. For an ever-so-brief time, Shelly -- who has earned a reputation for being insensitive to amateur radio's traditional values -- made a flamboyant Ross Perot-like show of assuming personal control of the DXCC operation in 1990, only to abruptly (again like Ross Perot) wash his hands of the program as quickly as possible thereafter.

Does he know something we don't ...like maybe DXCC is a quagmire that defies solution.